

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the British Trade, &c.

From Thursday, May 20. to Saturday, May 22. 1714.

The Assurance of our Opposers in giving false Accounts.
They depended upon not being found out.

No possibility of their Accounts being true.

The Cheat of Entring Goods to the Streights still carry'd on.

An Account of two Days only under that Head.

Three Ships now taking in Goods for France under the same Title.

The Exportations to Jersey and Guernsey are the same.

Likewise to Southampton and Dover.

THE Mercator has a little exclaim'd, and reason good, against the fraudulent Schemes of Trade publish'd by the Opposers of the Treaty of Commerce, and indeed it seems a strange thing, that such Assurance should possess any set of Men in the World; But we are to consider a thing, which tho' it be true in its own Nature, and confirm'd by Experience, yet is in it self very strange, viz. that Nations are easier to be imposed upon, than particular or private People.

This these People must depend upon, or they could never attempt by open, hardned and most notorious Falsities to impose upon the whole Nation in a thing which they could not but know must be detected, and they be exposed, even upon the first Enquiry.

Here they give us an Account how much to our Loss the Trade is from England to France, and to make it good they give the Custom-house Accounts, or an Abstract of the Exportation of English Goods to France for one Year, and also of the Importation from France to us in the same time; and setting these against one another, they draw out the Difference, and this they call the Ballance of the Trade.

As they draw it, setting their own Prices upon both sides; one as high as they thought fit, and the other as low as they could possibly. They might have made the Ballance which way they had thought fit: But when we come to enquire into these Things, we find them all Counterfeit, for they have a full Account of the Importations, and many times not one third or fourth part; nay in some Cases not a fifth part of the Exportations.

What fair full Account can they give from Schemes which are thus justly and unfairly drawn, which have no Feet to tread on, no Truth to support them, and which we may depend upon for nothing? Is it likely that can give us a fair Account, which is never capable of making out its own Vouchers, or of proving that what is there is confirmed by a sufficient Authority?

Some of the Manufactures which we send abroad are convenient for one part of the World, some for another; that part of France which we know uses fewest of those Goods, have had large Quahtities of them, when that part again, which by the Climate, may be supposed to use more than the other, has none of that sort of Goods sent to it, what is the Reason? The thing has no Reason in it self, but the true Reason of our having it so, is in the Fraud of these People, who give what Accounts they please of Things.

We have seen Goods Enter'd in small Quantities to Ports where no Ships have appear'd to go, as the 40 C. of Block-tin for Marseilles, mention'd Numb. 153. We all know, no Ship will go into the Bottom of the Gulph of Lyons to deliver 40 C. of Tin. We find three Ships bound up the Streights at that time, and we are assur'd that a very great Quantity of Woolen-Manufactures are shipped on board them, and that all these Ships touch at Marseilles and deliver Goods there. The following Account of Goods Enter'd for the Streights on board these three Ships was made in two Days, only great part of which we are assur'd are shipped for France, and will be landed at Marseilles.



835	Perpetuanas
1040	Stuffs and Druggets
30	Short Cloths
65	Long
130	Spanish
40	Yorkshire
404	Dozen Hose
46	Dozen Hats
20 lb.	Silk Hose
35	Fodder Lead
10 C.	Pewter

This is but a trifle to the Quantity of Goods which are shipp'd off in this manner, and all by a sham Method of concealing the Places they go for. But in reality, the greatest part of these Goods are sent for France.

We hope our Opposers will have more Modesty than to talk of the City of Marseilles being a free Port any more; that shuffle has been so laid open already, they must be ashamed certainly to talk any more about it; but we confess they have face enough to do any thing. However, let them make their most of it; 'tis sufficient to us, that the Goods are landed from England at Marseilles; let them get rid of them there as they can.

We have another Cheat of the like Nature of this, which covers these wild Peoples practises after a new manner; for no shift is wanting to keep it from the Eyes of the People, and to make them believe we send no Goods to France.

This is the Entring Goods for Jersey and Guernsey, for Southampton and for Dover: It is so well known whether these Goods go, that one would think no one should make any doubt of it.

Jersey and Guernsey are just upon the Coast of France: The Clandestine Trade between the Coast and those Islands is too well known to need any Description. We find a Quantity of Goods of several kinds shipp'd to those Islands greater than the Consumption of those Places can pretend to demand; for Example, There has been shipp'd to Jersey and Guernsey within these few Months,

4278 pieces Calicoes
639 pieces East-India Silks
350279 lb. Virginia Tobacco

besides other Goods of Value, and such as cannot be supposed to be made use of there. That these are sent from thence to France, there can be no room to question; and if our

Opposers should question it, a fair proof of it might easily be obtained.

What pains do our Dealers take to conceal that our Trade to France is greater than the World takes it to be? And if these Men had been cautious in the least of the Credit of their Cause, they would have taken Notice of these things, and have acknowledg'd a probability of an Exportation this way to France; but they are not fair enough in their Disputing, to own or acknowledge any thing, no not when it is fully proved upon them, much less will they be so fair as to own a thing beforehand, tho' they might know it will fall upon them at last.

In like manner we have several large Entries in the Custom house of London, of Goods shipp'd for Dover for Southampton: Every one knows, that Southampton and Dover are Towns on the Coast of England; that the sending Goods thither as Exported, is in order to be shipped on board some Vessel there by Endorsement. This we know, generally speaking, can be no where but to France, nor is it rational to suppose it to be any where else; and yet no Notice is taken of these Entries in the least. So that all this is sunk in their Account of the Trade.

To these two Ports of Southampton and Dover, we find, at sundry times, above Two thousand seven hundred pieces of Calicoes, Muslins, Silks, and other East-India Goods, which we are well satisfied go all for France.

Now let the Custom-house Officers be ask'd, or the Custom-house Books be search'd; these Goods will be no where found in the Accounts of our Exportations to France. So that in these particulars, it is evident the Custom-house Books are deficient from whence the mighty Schemes are drawn.

It is true, these Articles are not great, and they may boast that they will not much alter the Ballance of the Trade at the years End, tho' the *Mercator* believes it would alter it 20 or 25 thousand Pounds in the Year. But still every small matter evidences the Cheat, and makes good the Charge upon these Men of having Imposed fraudulent imperfect Accounts upon the World instead of true Accounts, thereby to make their pretended Balance of the Trade to France appear against us; for in the Years of Trade which they give Account of, such Entries might be made to the Streights, to Jersey, Guernsey, &c. as are now; None of all which are in their Accounts.

